

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick and Leo McGough
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2010
Location	Brendan's home
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brendan Hayden and Liam Byrne
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Males
Born	Brendan: Carlow, 1936. Liam: Carlow, 1947
Education	Brendan: Primary: Tinryland National School Secondary: Carlow CBS and Carlow VEC Liam: N/A
Family	Brendan: Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Wife (Breda), 4 boys and 3 girls (one son deceased) Liam: Siblings: 2 brothers and 1 sister Current Family if Different: N/A
Club(s)	Brendan: Tinryland GAA Club [Carlow]; The Pearse's hurling club [Carlow]; Ballinabranna GAA club [Carlow]; Palatine GAA club [Carlow]; Cossetts Factory team [Carlow]. Liam: Tinryland GAA Club [Carlow]
Occupation	Brendan: Retired Worked for Cossetts Sugar Factory, ESB Liam: Retired

Parents' Occupation	Brendan: Farmers Liam: N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Brendan: Fianna Fáil Liam: None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Brendan: None Liam: Senior Citizens' Club
Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1933 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow, England, Great Britain, USA, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Brendan, Liam and Leo recall their youth in County Carlow and the role of the GAA in their community as they were growing up. They trace the development of their club Tinryland over the years and look back on some of the highlights in their history. Brendan was an especially talented player and he talks about his evolution as a footballer, from club player to an inter-county star who represented his province and went on to become an All Star. He later progressed to coaching and was also an inter-county referee. There are many highlights to Brendan's career and he shares his experiences of the GAA as all three reflect on how far the Association has come in their lifetimes.</p> <p>00:35 (Brendan) Comes from Tinryland near Carlow town.</p> <p>00:55 (Brendan) Mother from Milford. Moved to Carlow at the</p>

	<p>age of 25.</p> <p>01:35 (Brendan) Family involvement in GAA. Uncle Ned Price played with the Army, Graiguecullen and Laois. Uncle Mick Price played with Milford and was on a Carlow team that won a junior championship in 1933.</p> <p>01:05 (Brendan) Both uncles played in battle of Rathoe, Ned Price with Graiguecullen and Nick Price with Milford.</p> <p>02:20 (Brendan) Father played with Tinryland. Success he enjoyed with them.</p> <p>02:45 (Brendan) Ramifications of battle of Rathoe. Tommy Murphy played with Graiguecullen in 1944.</p> <p>04:15 (Brendan) Success club enjoyed in 1940s. Three-in-a-row team. Drought and later success in the 1970s.</p> <p>05:05: (Brendan) What it was like growing up in Tinryland. School and community life. Playing football as a schoolboy, encouraged by a Fr Donegan.</p> <p>06:50 (Liam) Lack of money in the community when they were young. What they did for footballs and boots. Watching training. Nature of training.</p> <p>08:05 (Brendan) Tennis club in the area.</p> <p>08:15 (Liam) Entertainment in the local hall.</p> <p>08:30 (Liam) Football team as focal point of the parish. What they did for pitches.</p> <p>09:35 (Liam) Supplying the Leinster captain after winning championship in 1944. Pride in that achievement.</p> <p>10:00 (Brendan) Where they used to train in the community.</p> <p>10:40 (Brendan) Earliest GAA memory - 1944 Leinster final in Athy. John Doyle's boots and what was said about them.</p> <p>11:35 (Brendan) Playing minor in 1949 at aged 14. Retiring in 1970s.</p> <p>12:00 (Brendan) Old men talking to him at the crossroads as he went off to play a game.</p> <p>13:05 (Brendan) People like Andy Murphy, the Whelan brothers and John Doyle encouraging him as he developed his talents. Joe Gorman a great friend of his.</p> <p>14:00 (Liam) John Doyle the father figure in Tinryland football.</p>
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	<p>Why this was so. Doyle's background. Advice he gave to others. Example he set.</p> <p>15:30 (Liam) Club football tough when they were younger.</p> <p>17:05 (Liam) No houses being built in Tinryland when they were growing up. Knock-on effects of that.</p> <p>18:50 (Brendan) Housing scheme he became a part of in the 1960s and how that worked.</p> <p>20:15: (Brendan) What it was like to be handed a club jersey. Playing a county final in 1954 and how he fared.</p> <p>21:00 (Brendan) Being selected for the county. John Doyle a selector for the county team.</p> <p>21:15 (Brendan) Playing in a junior final in 1953 for his club and being selected for the seniors the following year.</p> <p>21:45 (Brendan) Training they did.</p> <p>23:15 (Brendan) How Tinryland progressed as a club when he was with them.</p> <p>23:50 (Liam) Fr JJ Dunney parish priest in the 1960s. Training took place in a field at McArdle's cross, which was controlled by the priest. Conflict arising. Suggested solutions.</p> <p>25:30 (Liam) Winning their first championship in 21 years in 1971. Being delegated to approach Fr Dunney with a request. How he was received.</p> <p>27:05 (Brendan) Securing a field of their own in Rathoe. Fr Dunney's reaction to that. Expanding facilities over the years.</p> <p>29:30 (Liam) Being involved in a committee. Submitting a tender to the army in an attempt to make a deal. over something of theirs that they wanted. How that worked out.</p> <p>30:40 (Brendan) Population of Tinryland when they were growing up. Other clubs in the parish - Milford, Fighting Cocks, Palatine, Grange. Pearse's a local hurling club.</p> <p>31:50 (Brendan) Playing hurling with Pearses and then Fintan's of Ballinabranna. Winning the double in 1972. Playing Ballinkillen in the hurling final.</p> <p>32:35 (Brendan) How he managed playing both football and hurling.</p> <p>32:50 32:55 (Brendan) Carlow winning their first All-Ireland</p>
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	<p>final. Playing in London.</p> <p>33:15 (Liam) 'Leading scorers' chart in the Independent newspaper and Brendan featuring on that.</p> <p>34:20 (Brendan) How he approached his own game. Preparation.</p> <p>35:10 (Brendan) Tommy Corcoran his 'bogey player'. Why that was.</p> <p>35:45 (Liam) Former chairman of Carlow County Board addressing a county team and what he said to them.</p> <p>36:40 (Brendan) What he thought of Tommy Corcoran. Run-ins they had.</p> <p>37:15 (Brendan) Marking Kerry's Mick O'Dwyer and Seán Murphy.</p> <p>37:25 (Brendan) What Carlow's team was like during the late 1950s. Rivalries with Dublin and Offaly. Playing Down in a league semi-final in 1962.</p> <p>38:25 (Brendan) Not getting the rub of the green. Éire Óg and how they fared.</p> <p>39:10 (Liam) Brendan's name cropping up in former Kerry players Mick O'Connell's and Mick O'Dwyer's books.</p> <p>39:35 (Brendan) Playing against Mick O'Dwyer in 1956 and how he got on.</p> <p>40:10 (Brendan) Travelling to games. Paddy O'Neill the driver and joker amongst them. Places they went to.</p> <p>40:50 (Liam) Paddy O'Neill also a linesman. Nickname he was given and why.</p> <p>41:05 (Brendan) Playing Kildare and Paddy O'Neill a linesman.</p> <p>41:25 (Brendan) Playing Down in 1962. Man named Long extremely impressive. Felling his absence during a vital game, during which they were also missing Pat Connolly. Seán Nolan playing well. Paddy Lowry away in England.</p> <p>42:35 (Liam) Carlow playing Kerry in the 1944 All-Ireland semi-final. Issue with a player, Fr Paddy Shine, that year. Ramifications.</p> <p>43:55 (Brendan) Jason Corcoran a talented player at the</p>
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	<p>time.</p> <p>44:15 (Brendan) Assessment of Carlow forward line at that time. Kelly and Morris talented midfielders. Keohane catching balls and outplaying Doyle.</p> <p>45:35 (Brendan) Playing with Leinster in the Railway Cup in 1959. Playing Ulster in Casement Park in 1961. Rory O'Brien from Offaly on the team, as was Kevin Heffernan of Dublin, Johnny Giles and Tom Smith. Being played out of position and how the game worked out. Last game in 1966 against Ulster.</p> <p>46:55 (Brendan) How he found playing for Leinster. Carlow's Mickey Whelan playing for Leinster in the 1940s.</p> <p>47:45 (Brendan) Playing Antrim in Casement Park with Carlow in the 1950s and his impressions of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>49:15 (Brendan) Level of training involved when playing with Carlow and with Leinster.</p> <p>49:40 (Brendan) Training in Tinryland on his own.</p> <p>50:35 (Liam) Playing in Mickey Kennedy's field. Problems with that.</p> <p>50:55 (Liam) Sligo man Ned Feeney had a car. Brendan, Séamus Hayden, Christy Byrne, Ned Byrne and Ned Feeney travelling around Leinster to watch GAA matches.</p> <p>52:15 (Brendan) Faith in his own ability. Opinions on skilful players.</p> <p>53:05 (Liam) Impact of Brendan's success on others at the club.</p> <p>53:30 (Liam) People talking football after Mass on a Sunday. John Doyle, Micky Whelan, Andy Murphy and Jackie Doyle discussing Brendan.</p> <p>54:40 (Brendan) Willie Hosey and Mickey Whelan, both Tinryland men, left-half forwards with Carlow before him.</p> <p>55:15 (Brendan) Different positions he played in for Carlow.</p> <p>54:05 (Brendan) Palatine big rivals of Tinryland. Atmosphere leading up to games.</p> <p>56:30 (Liam) Reason for rivalry.</p> <p>57:05 (Liam) Millford bringing in outside players to try and</p>
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	<p>beat Graiguecullen.</p> <p>58:05 (Brendan) Playing in the factory league. Success he had. Roadstone a strong team.</p> <p>01:00:10 (Liam) Handball alley in the village. Fr Dunney converting handball alley in old school in 1932. What use was made of it. Popularity of handball.</p> <p>01:01:30 (Liam) Brendan's success at handball in the 1980s.</p> <p>01:02:45 (Brendan) Training teams like Killeslin and Fennew. Success he had. Playing Palatine for a championship.</p> <p>01:03:15 (Brendan) How he got involved in training. Methodological approach.</p> <p>01:06:25 (Liam) Advice Brendan got from former referee John Doyle.</p> <p>01:06:50 (Brendan) Refereeing a senior match for the first time. Feeling nervous.</p> <p>01:08:35 (Brendan) How he got into refereeing.</p> <p>01:08:55 (Brendan) Going to the USA with the All Stars in 1977. Being in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.</p> <p>01:09:25 (Brendan) Feeling he was entitled to the 1978 All-Ireland between Kerry and Dublin. Séamus Hallery his rival for the job.</p> <p>01:10:15 (Brendan) Refereeing the All-Ireland Under-21 final and the All-Ireland Senior Colleges final.</p> <p>01:10:30 (Liam) Difficulty for someone from a 'smaller' county landing a top refereeing job.</p> <p>01:10:40 (Brendan) GAA President Hugh Byrne bringing referees with him. Jim Ryan bringing John Maloney. Frank Murphy of Cork.</p> <p>01:11:30 (Brendan) Preparing for a game as a referee. Knowledge of the rules.</p> <p>01:12:05 (Liam) What Brendan brought to the role of referee.</p> <p>01:12:30 (Brendan) Refereeing standards in modern-day GAA.</p> <p>01:12:45 (Brendan) Pat Ahern a local referee. Giving him advice.</p>
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	<p>01:13:30 (Brendan) Umpires he used - Tommy Doyle, Willie Purcell, Kieran Egan, Liam Delaney, Tommy Neill.</p> <p>01:14:20 (Brendan) Nerves before refereeing a game. Overcoming that.</p> <p>01:14:55 (Brendan) Offaly-Meath Leinster semi-final of 1973.</p> <p>01:17:10 (Brendan) Refereeing a game between Bunclody and Kildavin. Trouble erupting and how he dealt with it.</p> <p>01:18:55 Refereeing a Meath-Offaly Leinster semi-final. Trying to use common sense as the game unfolded.</p> <p>01:20:55 (Brendan) Refereeing the Offaly county final and other games in the county.</p> <p>01:21:15 (Brendan) Senior Colleges game he refereed was between Carmelite College and St Jarlath's of Tuam.</p> <p>01:23:20 (Brendan) Coming back from Belfast on a train in 1961. Christy Ring there. Discussions that went on about the 'roving game' that was prevalent in football.</p> <p>01:24:40 (Brendan) Opinions on modern-day Gaelic football. Comparing former Kerry player Tadhg Lyne to modern-day players. Differences in refereeing standards and physicality.</p> <p>01:26:15 (Liam) How modern-day referees would have fared in years gone by.</p> <p>01:26:40 (Brendan) Player welfare when he was playing.</p> <p>01:28:00 (Brendan) Rule changes in football and implications for modern-day referees.</p> <p>01:29:05 (Liam) Leinster football final between Louth and Meath in 2010 and refereeing controversy. Opinion on referee Martin Sludden's actions.</p> <p>01:30:25 (Liam) Variation in interpretation of the rules and how they are applied in different situations.</p> <p>01:31:05 (Brendan) Sending off Brian Doherty from Athy in a Leinster final.</p> <p>01:32:00 (Brendan) Scoring 3-07 in a game against Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:32:00 (Brendan) Playing his last county final in 1975 against Myshall and scoring a goal. David Power sending a ball into him.</p> <p>01:33:10 (Brendan) Scoring a vital goal against Palatine.</p>
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	<p>01:34:25 (Brendan) Beating Éire Óg in an important game. Ned Townsend passing to 'the yank' and what happened next.</p> <p>01:35:05 (Brendan) Being club chairman of Tinryland. Fundraising.</p> <p>01:35:40 (Liam) Fundraising raffle in the 1980s with a new house as top prize. How that worked out.</p> <p>01:36:30 (Liam) Fundraising drive with Opel cars as prizes.</p> <p>01:27:55 (Liam) Quality of their facilities. O'Loughlin Gaels of Kilkenny making use of them.</p> <p>01:38:05 (Liam) Brendan showing leadership at administrative level and progressing to the Leinster Council.</p> <p>01:38:55 (Brendan) What he learned as he went about his administrative duties.</p> <p>01:39:55 (Brendan) Elected Honorary President of Carlow GAA in 2004.</p> <p>01:40:40 (Liam) Significance of being Honorary President.</p> <p>01:41:40 (Brendan) How he found working as an administrator. Problems he encountered.</p> <p>01:42:25 (Brendan) Involvement in a negotiations on a new motorway that was due to run over club property.</p> <p>01:42:50 (Liam) Inconvenience caused by new motorway.</p> <p>01:44:20 (Brendan) Club property broken into on a few occasions.</p> <p>01:44:55 (Liam) Brendan's public speaking abilities.</p> <p>01:45:25 (Brendan) Impact of GAA on his personal life. Wife Breda's support.</p> <p>01:45:25 (Brendan) Daughter, Marian, playing GAA with Kilanerin in Wexford.</p> <p>01:47:10 (Brendan) Proudest GAA moment.</p> <p>01:47:30 (Brendan) Disappointments.</p> <p>01:48:05 (Brendan) Opinions on the modern-day Association.</p> <p>01:49:00 (Liam) Challenges facing the GAA.</p> <p>01:50:50 (Brendan) Problems with the way the GAA season</p>
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	<p>is structured and how that affects a county like Carlow.</p> <p>01:51:35 (Brendan) Opening of Croke Park and how Tinryland voted. What informed their decision. Former GAA President Pat Fanning's opinions. What Brendan thought of soccer and rugby matches that were played at Croke Park.</p> <p>01:53:35 (Brendan) People playing banned games when he was young. Being approached by the rugby club.</p> <p>01:54:25 (Liam) Opening of Croke Park. Benefits and downsides of that. Other sports looking to use GAA facilities nationwide.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>Brendan</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Liam:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Brendan:</p> <p>Selected on the Carlow Football Team of the Century</p> <p>Played Senior Football for Carlow for over 16 years</p> <p>Selected for Leinster Football Team on 3 occasions, winning two Railway Cup medals.</p> <p>Selected as a referee on GAA All-Stars trip to New York in 1977.</p> <p>Won 1 All-Ireland intermediate hurling medal with Carlow.</p> <p>Won 4 Carlow Club Senior Football Championship medals.</p> <p>Won 5 Carlow Club Senior Hurling Championship medals</p>

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	<p>Won 2 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Factory League medals. Won 2 Leinster Senior Hurling Factory League medals. Won two Carlow Club Handball Championship medals. Refereed 4 Leinster Football Finals: 1969, 1970, 1973, 1975.</p> <p>Liam: 2 Carlow Club Football Championships</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Brendan: Elected Honorary President of Carlow GAA in 2004 Carlow GAA Leinster Council Delegate for 17 years Chairman of Tinryland GAA Club on 3 occasions Served on Carlow County Board for 3 years</p> <p>Liam: N/A</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:57:42
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd July 2012